

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are of record.

The Specification has been amended to overcome the objection under 37 CFR §1.71(a).

To explain the invention:

There is a processing unit 10 that has an outer case 25 (Figs. 1 and 10).

Within the case 25 there are one or more water treatment sections 11 (Figs. 3, 6, 7).

Each water treatment section 11 is formed by a plurality of magnet housings 12 that are mounted on a belt 20 by having the belt 20 inserted into slots 15B of the housings.

A plurality of permanent magnets 19 are in each magnet housing.

Each housing 12 (Fig. 2) is formed by an upper box 13 and a lower box 16.

The foregoing should obviate the objection. Also, the Specification has been amended to correct grammatical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2 and 3 are cancelled and replaced by a new independent claim 6. Claim 6 has been written in a manner to comply with §112 and also to be definite in form, following the explanation of the invention as given above.

Claims 1-5 are rejected as anticipated by Carpenter, U.S. 4,367,143.

New claim 6 recites the water treatment section comprised of the plurality of magnet housings assembled with the belt inserted through the housings. The claim further recites that the water treatment section is within a case. In Carpenter, there is no insert mounting of magnet housings by a strap. Instead, there are clamps 40 and one clamp is needed for each magnet. The arrangement set forth in claim 6 is considerably simpler to mount on a pipe. Therefore, claim 6 is patentable over Carpenter and should be allowed and should be allowed.

Claims 4 and 5 have been made dependent from claim 6 and recite further details of the magnet structure. In view of the allowability of claim 6, these claims also patentably distinguish over Carpenter.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are further rejected over Okamoto, U.S. 6,044,120 and Kampf, U.S. 5,766,461 in view of Carpenter or JP 10-180-262A.

The combination of references does not teach or suggest the novel magnetic unit of the invention with the continuous band as now defined in new main claim 6. Therefore, these claims also patentably distinguish over these two references.

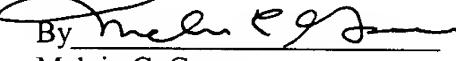
New claim 7 depends from claim 6 and further recites a waterproof member in the spaces between the case and the section. New claim 8 depends from claim 6 and further calls for the member to be a waterproof silicon foaming agent (see page 15, lines 9-10 of the Specification). These features are also not shown in any of the references. Therefore, these claims are also patentable and should be allowed.

New claim 9 depends from claim 6 and recites the details of the magnet housing, such as shown in Fig. 2. This feature also is not shown or suggested in any of the references. Therefore, claim 9 is also patentable and should be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Melvin C. Garner

Registration No.: 26,272

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant